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CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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FOR THE YEAR 1944.

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHESTER-LE-STREET,
August, 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of
Chester-le-Street.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District, for the year ending the 31st December, 1944.

It should be noted that the restrictions, on grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures in the Annual Report, communications to the Press, etc., and on reference to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings, have now been removed.

There has been an increase of 670 in the estimated population of the Rural District from 1943.

There has been a slight increase in the birth-rate, and the death rate has also decreased slightly since last year.

The infant mortality rate has increased slightly, and the maternal mortality rate is less than last year.

The death rates of influenza and diphtheria show a decrease on last year; whooping cough increased slightly, and there have been no deaths from measles. The attack rate of diphtheria is the same as last year.

The response to the offer by the Local Authority of free immunisation of children against diphtheria continues to be disappointing; the latest returns show that approximately 58.1% of children aged 1-5 years, and 65.6% of children aged 5-15 years have so far been protected, which is a substantial increase on last year's figures, but this result will have very little effect on the incidence of diphtheria within the district; until 75% of the child population have been protected, there will be no reduction in the incidence of this disease. It cannot be too clearly stressed that

the ideal time for protection of children is not in the midst of an epidemic, but in quiet periods, because it must be understood that it takes three months for immunity to develop after the injection.

There has been an increase in the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and a decrease in non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and a decrease in the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. The increase in the new cases of respiratory condition affects mainly males and females between 15 and 35 years of age, whereas the non-pulmonary form affects chiefly 5-15 age group.

Treatment of scabies is carried out at the First Aid Post, Elizabethville School, Birtley, with continuing good results.

The water supplies of the area continue to receive careful supervision from your Officers. Samples of water are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination, and close contact is maintained with officials of the various water undertakings supplying the area.

Samples of milk are now taken by the Sanitary Inspectors' for the War Agricultural Committee ; the results are not handed on to them, but I presume the War Agricultural Committee is keeping a watch on the milk.

There is still in the area, a large number of houses which are unfit for human habitation ; a number of dwellings are very seriously overcrowded, but owing to the war, very little can be done to remedy this distressing problem.

The cleanliness and sanitary condition of the public air raid shelters in the area continue to receive the attention of your Health Officials. The condition of the shelters since the appointment of shelter attendants has improved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALICE M. BOWMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

TEMPORARY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :—

ALICE MARY BOWMAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

ACTING SANITARY SURVEYOR :—

W. HUGHES.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :—

THOMAS FOSTER, A.R.S.I. and Certificate in meat inspection
of the R.S.I.

CHARLES W. ROBSON, C.R.S.I. and Certificate in Meat
Inspection of the R.S.I.

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is the same as last year.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population for the Rural District for mid-year 1944 is 670 more than the population for 1943.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district on 31st December, 1944, was £152,704 and a penny rate represented the sum of £563.

Extracts of Vital Statistics.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	20·0
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Still Birth

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38·4
---	------

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11·6
---	------

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	2	2.48
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	1.24
Total	3	3.72

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	75
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live births	74
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	97
Deaths from Cancer (at all ages)	59
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4

Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1944 and previous years :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1935 ...	16.4	11.7	63
1936 ...	17.0	11.9	61
1937 ...	15.8	11.8	71
1938 ...	17.2	10.4	55
1939 ...	15.1	12.0	82
1940 ...	17.5	12.7	64
1941 ...	17.4	12.9	70
1942 ...	16.4	12.9	89
1943 ...	17.3	12.7	70
1944 ...	20.0	11.6	75

Deaths.

Included in the total number of deaths are those of 126 residents of this district who died outside the area ; 9 residents of other districts who died in the rural area are excluded.

The death rates for the various townships were as follows :—

			Death Rate per 1000 population.				Death Rate per 1000 population.
Biddick South	...	...	—	Lumley Little	...	...	16.5
Birtley	...	...	12.5	Ouston	...	...	16.1
Bournmoor	...	...	11.0	Pelton...	...	...	10.2
Edmondsley	...	...	9.6	Plawsworth	...	...	8.2
Harraton	...	...	12.3	Urpeth	...	...	9.7
Lambton	...	...	59.4	Waldridge	...	...	11.6
Lamesley	...	...	12.0	Sacriston	...	...	11.1
Lumley Great	...	...	8.1				

The following were the chief causes of death during the year :—

Cause.			Percentage of Total Deaths.
1.	{ Diseases of Heart	...	...
	{ Cerebral Haemorrhage and other	...	...
	{ Circulatory diseases	...	42.4
2.	Respiratory Diseases	...	15.6
3.	Cancer	...	13.1
4.	Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	4.9
5.	Violence	...	4.0

The age at death is summarised below :—

			Percentage of Total Deaths.
Under 1 year	...	...	13.5
1-5 years	...	...	0.7
5-15 years	...	...	1.1
15-25 years	...	...	2.7
25-45 years	...	...	10.7
45-65 years	...	...	27.4
65 years and upwards	...	...	43.9

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. The chief causes of death enumerated are regarded as the principle killing diseases.

Deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis will be referred to later in the report in that section dealing with these diseases.

There were three deaths registered from puerperal and other maternal causes, which is the same as the previous year.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered during the year was 58 and is 11 more than in the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 75, compared with 70 for the previous year 1943.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1944.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52
148 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931 ...	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44
London ...	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61
Chester-le-Street R.D. ...	20.0	0.79	11.6	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.08	5.15	58

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

per 1,000 Live & Still Births	Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
0.28	1.25	1.53	

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

For a detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department, see page 5.

2 (a). Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens remain the same as in the past.

During the year, the following bacteriological examinations were carried out with the results appended.

Disease.	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria	80	170	250
Tuberculosis	37	142	179
Typhoid, Dysentery and Food Poisoning			
Organisms	2	3	5

The total number of samples examined is equal to a rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the population.

No change has taken place from last year in the under-mentioned services:—

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The district has a piped supply of water from the mains of public companies, with the exception of a few isolated houses which rely on springs and wells.

Samples of water are taken at monthly intervals from different points in the supply area of each public undertaking and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination and report. During the year, 64 samples were taken and of that number 9 or 14% were reported as not satisfactory, and 7 or 11% as suspicious. All of the unsatisfactory samples were from the mains of Companies.

In every case a copy of the report was sent to the body concerned. Where there was an unsatisfactory report a letter was sent asking for immediate steps to be taken to render the supply pure and wholesome. They were also requested to notify the Council as to what steps had been taken, and check samples were taken for further examination.

The area, with the exception of out-lying houses, is always supplied from Public Service mains. The piping is direct to the houses, except for less than 1%, which have stand-pipes. The supply is constant, and with regard to plumbo-solvent action, this matter is entirely in the hands of the suppliers.

No extensions of piped supplies have been carried out during 1940-44. The supplies in the Barley Mow, Fatfield and Lumley Areas, controlled by this Council, have been kept to a satisfactory standard. Improvements in the latter area have effected a better supply than ever before.

Emergency Water Supplies.

The water undertakings of the area have accepted full responsibility for the supply of water in any part of the district, should the emergency arise.

Closet Accommodation.

No conversion scheme was carried out, the completion of the remainder of the district having been held up because of the war emergency.

13 conversions were carried out under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by owners of property, assisted by a contribution from the Local Authority of half the cost or £3 10s. 0d., whichever was the less amount.

Public Cleansing.

The change over from local area horse-scavenging to centralised mechanical scavenging has mostly been effected during the war years. Two local areas in the parishes of Harraton and South Biddick formerly contracted for, were taken over by the Council, the general direct labour scheme resulting in a high standard of Refuse Collection in the District.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Edmondsley and Waldrige were completed, although subsidence has affected the efficiency of the latter works. The Council are proceeding with the preparation of schemes for the Alma, Grange Villa and Floaters Mill, New Lambton Sewage Disposal Works, together with the reconstruction of other sewers in the district. The chief work on sewers was maintenance and repair, while small portions were relaid where necessary.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Reference to the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors at the end of this report will show that this work has been carried out with care throughout the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two swimming baths in the district which are open to the public. One at Birtley, which is an open air pool and which was constructed by the Parish Council with help from the Commissioner for Special Areas ; the other at New Lambton, provided by the Miners' Welfare is a closed pool. Both are modern in design with efficient plants for filtering and treating the water chemically.

Samples of water from the pools are taken throughout the swimming season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. Last year 11 samples were taken and 6 were reported as satisfactory.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 & 1938.

No applications have been made under these Acts since 1939, when grants were made in respect of eleven houses.

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply

730 samples of milk were taken on behalf of the Durham County War Agriculture for the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and were submitted to the Resazurin Test by the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne.

In the area, particular attention is paid to the conditions under which milk is produced. The Dairies and Cowsheds are visited regularly, and supervised, and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter of animals is now carried out at the Government Regional Abattoir situated at the Co-operative premises in Chester-le-Street and your Sanitary Inspectors have taken duty spells for the inspection of meat with the Sanitary Inspector of the Urban District of Chester-le-Street.

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Prevalence.

839 Notifications were received during the year, compared with 876 the previous year and 948 in 1942. Included in this figure are 253 cases of Measles and 88 cases of Whooping Cough, and 68 Diagnosis not Confirmed, as opposed to 335 Measles and 96 Whooping Cough the previous year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past ten years :—

DISEASE.	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	306	215	179	226	43	50	64	111	144	93
Diphtheria ...	146	157	72	108	90	69	82	104	113	115
Enteric Fever ...	7	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	1	...	...	1	4	10	7	6	7
Polio-myelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	84	130	106	69	...	78	81	97	90	126
Puerperal Fever ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	5	5	12	11	7	8	5	7	3
Erysipelas ...	31	32	32	50	20	24	26	25	37	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	4	5	2	6	4	2	4	5	7
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	49	48	49	40	44	38	45	47	26	36
Non-pulmonary	39	41	27	35	26	17	20	21	17	14
*Measles ...	...	...	...	...	6	1033	185	470	335	253
*Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	32	34	190	56	96	88
†Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68

*From November 13th, 1939 only

†Due to Quarterly Infectious Return

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOWNSHIPS.																	Total No. Notified.	Removed to Hospital.											
	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 up.	At all ages.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Biddick South	Birtley	Bournmoor	Edmondsley			Harra-ton	Lamb-ton	Lamesley	Lumley, Great	Lumley, Little	Ouston	Pel-ton	Plaw-sworth	Urpeth	Wal-dridge	Sacriston
Diphtheria	1	18	54	39	3	...	...	115	5	31	24	16	11	3	5	5	3	3	3	6	...	59	1	10	8	...	6	9	...	1	4	3	2	1	11	115	115
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastro-Enteritis ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
Erysipelas ...	...	1	...	2	9	7	5	24	6	1	1	2	1	2	...	3	2	1	4	1	...	4	...	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	...	...	1	3	24	6
Ophthalmia ...	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Pneumonia ...	20	40	15	10	16	19	6	126	14	8	10	10	4	13	9	6	9	4	19	20	...	20	4	17	5	4	6	13	6	2	5	1	2	2	39	126	43
Puerperal Fever ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	8	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...
Scarlet Fever ..	1	33	49	9	1	...	...	93	11	11	13	11	7	3	8	10	3	8	4	4	...	31	1	...	17	1	6	12	1	1	11	...	7	...	5	93	77
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	...	4	10	15	6	1	36	8	6	5	1	3	1	...	2	2	2	4	2	...	19	...	1	...	...	5	2	1	...	4	1	1	...	2	36	...
„ Non-pulmonary	...	5	6	3	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	1	3	2	2	2	3	...	1	...	...	4	2	...	1	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	14	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	2	1	1	1	2	...	7	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	7	
Dysentery ...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	4	...	
Total ...	27	101	129	81	46	34	12	430	47	58	55	42	31	28	25	30	23	18	37	36	...	146	8	29	36	6	29	40	11	8	28	6	16	5	62	430	256

The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown on the following table :—

Disease.	Chester-le-Street Rural District			England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	2.39	2.40
Diphtheria	2.96	0.58
Typhoid	—	0.01
Paratyphoid	—	0.01
Erysipelas	0.62	0.29
Pneumonia	3.24	0.97
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1.80	0.05
Whooping Cough	2.29	2.49
Measles	6.52	4.16

Prevalence of notifiable diseases in the various townships is shown in the following table, which gives the attack rate per 1,000 of the population :—

Township.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.
Biddick South	—	—	—	—
Birtley	3.02	5.75	1.94	0.39
Bournmoor	0.65	0.65	2.59	—
Edmondsley	—	6.00	10.19	0.59
Harraton	6.53	3.07	1.92	0.76
Lambton	9.90	—	39.63	9.90
Lamesley	1.64	1.64	1.64	0.82
Lumley Great	8.13	6.09	8.80	1.36
Lumley Little	0.69	—	4.12	1.37
Ouston	1.24	1.24	2.48	3.71
Pelton	1.77	0.64	0.80	0.32
Plawsworth	—	2.24	0.74	—
Urpeth	3.39	0.97	0.97	—
Waldridge	—	1.45	2.89	1.45
Sacriston	1.03	2.27	8.04	0.62

Cancer.

59 deaths were registered during the year as being due to Cancer, which is equal to a death rate of 1.52 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from this disease shows a slight decrease on the previous year.

Of the 59 deaths, 28 occurred in males and 31 in females. No undue occupational prevalence was noted.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1944 :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5 ...	—	—	4	1	—	1	1	—
5-15 ...	3	2	1	3	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	1	9	2	3	1	3	—	1
25-35 ...	2	5	—	—	4	4	—	1
35-45 ...	4	3	—	—	1	1	—	1
45-55 ...	5	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	17	19	7	7	8	9	2	3

The following table gives the notifications and deaths occurring in the Rural District during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications	Deaths.
1940 ...	38	23	17	7
1941 ...	45	29	20	3
1942 ...	47	27	21	6
1943 ...	26	24	17	2
1944 ...	36	17	14	5

The Local Authority supplies disinfectants to tuberculous persons for the disinfection of sputum and the washing of floors, etc.

Houses in which deaths take place from Tuberculosis are disinfected by the Local Authority, and any bedding which cannot be disinfected by steam is destroyed and the household compensated.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council

(NORTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street R.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my 16th Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration and Housing Conditions in the Northern Area of your district, and of matters connected with health and sanitation generally.

Owing to continued war conditions the activities of the department are limited in scope and the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Security curtail much of the detail which normally would appear in an annual report

Area.

The boundaries of the Northern Area remain the same as last year and the area includes the Parishes of Birtley, Harraton, Lamesley, Ouston and Urpeth.

Housing.

Housing is the most difficult problem in the Area, a large number of properties dealt with under Slum Clearance Schemes, and houses dealt with individually under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, are still occupied and many are in a deplorable condition owing to the fact that they are condemned, the restrictions on labour and material, and the reluctance of owners to spend money on property which they know will be demolished when alternative accommodation is available. There are also a large number of houses which are unfit for human habitation, which are scheduled to be dealt with under the next slum clearance scheme, but which on account of the shortage of houses, are now occupied. There is also the problem of overcrowding which was acute before the war but which has now been aggravated by the influx of labour into the munition factories, also houses for the new married couples who have never had a home of their own.

The need for houses throughout the area is urgent and unless new houses are erected, the deplorable conditions of bad housing, overcrowding, and families without homes will get worse.

Provisional schemes for Slum Clearance have been approved by the Council, for the provision of houses to replace existing condemned houses, and for additional houses to abate overcrowding and provide homes for newly married couples or people who have never had homes.

This scheme includes for the provision of 1,458 houses in the Northern area. Twenty-three houses have been demolished during the year. One hundred and eighteen have been inspected and recorded during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

The major part of the area is served with water carriage system. Part of Beamish area has not yet been dealt with owing to the insufficiency of the sewage disposal works. When these works have been reorganised the remaining houses, now served by the conservancy system which are within a reasonable distance of the Council's sewers will be converted.

There has been one conversion under Sec. 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 28 Registered Dairies in the Area, comprising 1 Certified producer, 12 Accredited and 16 Ordinary producers. There are also 7 purveyors of milk in the Area. 7 of the producers dispose of their milk wholesale to outside areas, while 10 producers sell the bulk of their milk by retail outside their own area.

Out of 28 dairymen only 11 produce and sell the whole of the milk within their own area, the resultant shortage is met by importing milk from dairies and retail farmers outside the area.

The estimated capacity production of milk in the area is 1,034 gallons daily, and the ascertained consumption of milk daily is 1,052 gallons, including school milk.

The anomalous position of producing sufficient milk in the area, exporting fresh milk to outside areas, and importing processed and raw milk into the area with the resultant waste of time, labour, and fuel, was submitted to the Milk Marketing Board and Ministry of Food, at a conference held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 5th August, 1943. After discussion Mr. Stanway stated that he was

preparing a new scheme for the distribution of milk in the Northern Area and would give consideration to the matters raised and embody in his scheme the suggestions put forward by the Council.

No further communication has been received on the matter and no action has been taken, and we are still of opinion that a great saving could be effected and a better supply of milk distributed in the area if the milk produced was retained in the area, and there would be less cause of complaint of unsatisfactory milk.

The cowsheds are regularly inspected and a good standard is maintained. Milk sampling has been confined during the year to taking samples monthly from all producer retailers on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under the National Milk testing and Advisory Scheme.

307 samples were taken and submitted to the Resazurin Test by the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Water Supplies.

The area is well supplied with water. The main sources of supply being the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, the Durham County Water Board, and the Lambton Hetton and Joicey Collieries Ltd., from whom water is purchased in bulk through meter and distributed through the Council's own mains. There are still a few houses, situated outside the reasonable limits of the above-mentioned services which have to rely upon springs, wells, and private supplies, these have proved sufficient for their needs and on analysis have been found satisfactory.

The water supplied by these undertakings above-mentioned are all chlorinated before distribution, samples are taken monthly and submitted to the Medical Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination. Copies of the reports are sent to the Companies concerned and when samples are not satisfactory the undertakers give the matter their immediate attention and do what they can to remedy the cause of complaint. There is one public swimming bath in the area, water for which is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. Samples are taken from the baths monthly during the season and submitted for bacteriological examination. The reports have been uniformly good during the year. The following tables show the results of the samples taken from each Water Company.

	<i>Satis- Samples.</i>	<i>Sus- factory.</i>	<i>Sus- picious.</i>	<i>Unsat- isfactory.</i>
Newcastle and Gateshead				
Water Co.	12	10	1	1
Durham County Water Board	12	10	1	1
Lambton Hetton and Joicey				
Collieries	12	9	3	—
Birtley Baths Newcastle and				
and Gateshead ...	4	4	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	40	33	5	2
	—	—	—	—

Meat and Food Inspection.

All fresh meat from the Area is slaughtered at the Government Regional slaughter house situated on the premises of the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society in the Chester-le-Street Urban Area.

The slaughter house serves both the Urban and the Rural Areas and the inspection is made by the inspectors of the two Authorities, each taking their turn by weekly periods.

All carcases are inspected as soon as possible after slaughtering and every assistance is afforded the inspectors by the management and men employed at the Slaughter House, where the most cordial relations exist.

The following carcases and all offals were inspected during the year:—

Bulls	...	...	13	Calves	...	...	63
Cows	...	...	116	Sheep	...	...	2071
Steers	...	...	295	Pigs	...	...	91
Heifers	...	...	264				

The following meat was condemned during the year:—

			lbs.			lbs.
Beef	...	...	1469	Back Collop	...	5
Mutton	...	...	337	Guts	...	513
Pork	...	...	34	Fat	...	791
Bovine Heads	...	...	178	Tripes	...	140½
Pigs Heads	...	...	43	Manifold	...	70½
Lungs	...	...	680	Udders	...	325
Livers	...	...	563	Plucks	...	43
Hearts	...	...	18	Spleen	...	10
Kidneys	...	...	8	Feet and tail	...	10

Total weight of meat destroyed 2 tons 6 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb.

Other Foods Condemned.

	lbs.	ozs.		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meats ...	218	8	Biscuits ...	35	0
„ Soup ...	9	2	Bacon ...	49	0
„ Vegetables ...	11	2	Flour ...	15	0
„ Fruit ...	223	0	Butter ...	19	0
„ Milk ...	353	1	Sugar ...	4	0
„ Fish ...	11	8	Dried Egg ...	—	10
Fish Dressings ...	112	0	Oxo ...	—	2
Jam ...	18	8			

Total weight 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lbs. 9 ozs.

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.**Petrol.**

All new tanks are pressure tested when installed and all premises are inspected before licenses are issued on the 1st January each year. The premises and equipment are kept in good order in compliance with the above act and regulations.

During the year 15 licenses were issued, the authorised quantity to be kept at any one time being 15,210 gallons.

Carbide of Calcium.

11 Owners of stores were licensed during the year for the storage of Carbide of Calcium. The stores which have been specially constructed or adapted for the purpose are kept in good order.

The aggregate quantity to be stored at any one time being 705 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs.

Scavenging.

With the exception of one half of Harraton Parish all scavenging is done by direct labour by mechanical transport. In Harraton Parish there are 397 houses and premises scavenged by Contract, the contract price being 12/6d. per house per annum.

Disposal of all refuse is effected by means of controlled tipping, on suitable sites conveniently situated for the various areas.

Complaints with regard to scavenging are rare.

Infestation Order, 1943, S.R. & O. 680.

The above is operated by the Council on Non-Agricultural properties.

During the year 14 colonies, all of the minor type of infestation have been dealt with, satisfactory results were obtained.

Complaints when received are attended to immediately.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**Summary of Notices Served and Complied With.**

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied With.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions ...	10	1	11	
Structural Defects ...	152	4	141	
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milk Shops...	...	...	...
Cowsheds...	...	...	...
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	5	...	4	
Deposits of Refuse	5	...	5	
Water Closets	48	...	49	
Defective Yard Paving	20	...	20	
Defective Traps	46	...	46	
Defective Drains	50	...	50	
Defective Water Supply	25	...	25	
Bakehouses	...	...	...
Animals Improperly kept	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...
Defective Ashbins	46	...	46	
Totals ...	407	5	397	

Summary of Works Carried Out.

New Drains Laid	...	...	...	...	38
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	50
Inspection Chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Vent shafts erected	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C. constructed	...	...	...	...	5
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	66
E.C. repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	23
Houses new and reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4

New scullery sinks	...	...	...	...	...	38
Scullery sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
New ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	46
Yards cemented	...	...	...	...	...	20
Chimneys rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	23
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	74
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	51
Walls cemented	...	...	...	...	...	49
Walls plastered	...	...	...	...	...	49
New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
New windows fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	58
New Stairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Floors	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pantries repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	25
Foul conditions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	11
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOSTER,

Cert. Sanitary Inspector, R.S.I.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,
6, Red Rose Terrace,
Chester-le-Street.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

(SOUTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth annual report on the Sanitary Administration of the Southern Area of your district. Owing to the continuance of hostilities, and the difficulty of getting improvements and alterations carried out, this report is therefore, brief. I wish also to acknowledge with gratitude, the co-operation and assistance given to me by the Council and my colleagues.

Area.

The district remains the same as in previous years.

Housing.

Wherever possible, the inhabitants living in condemned and overcrowded properties are re-housed, as opportunities present themselves, but, unfortunately, these lettings hardly touch the fringe of this constant problem. We can only hope that building operations, whether temporary, permanent, or both, will be commenced before another year goes by, and the hovels in which these unfortunate people are living, are razed to the ground.

It becomes increasingly difficult to get adequate repair work accomplished, owing to restrictions, and the scarcity of certain materials and labour.

One notice of Time and Place, relating to the making of a demolition order, under Section 11 of the Housing Act, was made. The owners of the property, Greenbank House, Woodstone Village, gave an undertaking to the Council to have the necessary repairs carried out.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, seven applications for privy conversions were received and approved. Twelve conversions were completed during the year ; applications for four were made last year, and one application for grant was not applied for.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Routine inspections of cowsheds and dairies have been made periodically throughout the year, and a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained. Improvements have been effected in the case of two dairies, and these works are now almost completed ; one new dairy has been built.

From 30 producers of milk, 11 are wholesalers, 18 retailers, and 1 wholesale and retail ; there are also three registered dairy-men who deliver milk. Six farms hold an accredited licence.

From 330 samples of milk taken and subjected to the Resazurin test, 297 were satisfactory as far as keeping quality is concerned, and 33 unsatisfactory. An additional 93 samples were taken, the results of which have not been received, making the total number taken 423.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1944, which has been placed on the Statute Book, gives power to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, along with the Ministry of Health, to make regulations with respect to Dairy farms and Dairy-men. It is to be hoped, that when these new Regulations are drawn up, Local Sanitary Authorities will not be eliminated from a fair share of the work in connection with the administration of milk supplies, which they have for so long carried on in the interests of Public Health.

Water Supplies.

The Southern area of the district is supplied by mains from the Durham County Water Board, and the Lambton Hetton and Joicey supplies. Samples are taken monthly, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Department, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. The result of 36 samples of water taken throughout the year are: 24 satisfactory, 8 unsatisfactory, and 4 suspicious.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Our meat supplies continue to be regularly inspected at the Government Regional Abattoir at the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Societies premises. Along with the Urban Inspector, a rota of inspection of one week in every three weeks is made, and the

following carcasses of meat have been examined by me during the year:—287 steers, 237 heifers, 156 cows, 13 bulls=(693 bovines), 33 calves, 32 pigs and 1,876 sheep. The amount of meat condemned as being unfit for food, and disposed of, is as follows:—

				st.	lbs.
11	Carcases of Cow beef	...	...	324	7
	Beef Flanks	...	...	2	10
12	Bovine Heads and Tongues	...	...	25	3
73	Bovine Lungs	...	...	59	0
38	Bovine Livers	...	...	34	11
	Bovine Fats and other organs	...	...	171	0
	Bruised Pork	...	...	—	9
	Pork Fats and Organs	...	...	—	4
1	Carcase of Lamb and organs	...	...	3	8
3	Sheeps plucks	...	...	1	2
Total weight condemned				622	12

Other articles of food inspected at various retail premises within my district, and condemned as being unfit for food, consist of:—

				st.	lbs.	ozs.
97	tins of meat products	...	...	17	3	4
26	tins of vegetable products	...	...	1	11	5
65	tins of milk	...	...	4	4	14
13	tins of jam	...	...	1	12	0
58	tins of fish	...	...	3	11	0
3	tins of fruit	...	...	1	7	0
74	tins of custard powder	...	...	3	13	0
17	packets of dried egg	...	...	—	5	4
3	packets of cocoa	...	...	—	—	12
48	packets of tea	...	...	—	12	0
11	bottles of pickles, sauces, etc.	...	...	1	0	4
	Ham	...	...	—	7	0
	Bacon	...	...	1	13	0
	Butter	...	...	1	13	8
	Cheese	...	...	6	8	0
	Sausage	...	...	—	7	0
	Black pudding	...	...	5	1	0
377	Fish cakes	...	...	5	10	0
44½	dozen eggs (approx.)	...	...	4	10	13
Total weight condemned				63	11	0

Inspections of factories in my area have been made, and except for a few cases of limewashing required, all were satisfactory.

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

During the year, four licences were issued for the storage of 5,500 gallons of petrol, one for 5 gallons of naphtha and five for 19 cwts. of calcium carbide.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**Summary of Notices Served.**

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions ...	4	...	2	
Structural Defects ...	98	...	72	
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	7	...	6	
Bakehouses ...	2	...	2	
Slaughter Houses ...	...	...	...
Ash Pits and Privies ...	12	...	12	
Deposits & Refuse ...	...	...	...
Water Closets and Conversions ...	17	...	16	
Defective Yard Paving and Walls ...	1	...	1	
Defective Traps ...	6	...	6	
Do. disconnection from sewer ...	13	...	13	
Other faults, def. drains	22	...	21	
Water Supply ...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	2	...	1	
Defective Dust Bins ...	30	...	18	
Totals ...	214	...	170	

Summary of Works carried out.

Roofs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Spouting ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
External walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Floors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Doors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Kitchen ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slopstone sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

New drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
A.C.'s. repaired and built	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Yard walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Outhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Foul conditions abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES WILFRID ROBSON,
Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.

